

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2921

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National Air Quality Index

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has released National Air Quality Indices (AQI) for 24 cities across the country in the month of January, 2016;
- (b) if so, the details and findings thereof, city-wise;
- (c) whether the air quality during January is worse than the data of the previous months; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) The National Air Quality Index (AQI) has been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on April 06, 2015. There are six AQI categories, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe. Each of these categories is decided based on ambient concentration values of air pollutants and their likely health impacts.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) started disseminating the Air Quality Index (AQI) for 10 cities based on the data CAAQM stations. At present, 23 cities are connected to the web-based system of National AQI. They are Agra, Ahmadabad, Bangaluru, Chandrapur, Chennai, Delhi, Faridabad, Gaya, Gurgaon, Haldia, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Mumbai, Muzaffarpur, Navi Mumbai, Panchkula, Patna, Pune, Solapur and Varanasi. Steps have been taken to strengthen the network of monitoring systems in all 46 cities having population of more than a million and 20 State Capitals, and linking them to the central AQI portal, in a phased manner. The details of AQI findings during September 2015 to January 2016 is at Annexure.

(c) The analysis of AQI values for 23 cities conducted by CPCB during November, 2015 to January, 2016, percentage of AQI in terms of 06 categories is depicted in the table given below:

Category ?

Month? Good satisfactory moderate poor very poor severe

November, 2015 2% 18% 21% 18% 32% 9%

December, 2015 1% 15% 26% 17% 30% 11%

January, 2016 <1% 11% 31% 15% 26% 16%

(d) The steps taken by the Government to mitigate air pollution in metropolitan cities in the country include the following:-

- (i) Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards envisaging 12 pollutants;
- (ii) Formulation of environmental regulations / statutes;
- (iii) Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;
- (iv) Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel, ethanol blend etc. replacing petrol and diesel;
- (v) Promotion of cleaner production processes;

Taking note of the gravity of Air Pollution, the Government has taken some more measures which include:

- (i) Launched National Air Quality index by the Prime Minister in April, 2015 starting with 10 cities and now extended to 23 cities;
- (ii) Implementation of Bharat Stage IV (BS-IV) norms in 63 selected cities and universalization of BS-IV by 2017;
- (iii) Decision taken to leapfrog directly from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020;
- (iv) Comprehensive review of all Waste Management Rules including Municipal Solid Waste, Plastic Waste, Hazardous Waste, Bio-medical Waste and Electronic Waste.
- (v) Ban on burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste;
- (vi) Promotion of public transport network of metro, buses, e-rickshaws and promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance;
- (vii) Revision of existing environmental standards and formulation of new standards for prevention and control of pollution from industries.
- (viii) Regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR.
- (ix) Issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- (x) Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries.
